

Stubblebine 109755con-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A system that includes a security policy server, an identification authority server, a revocation authority server, verification authority server, and a user computer, comprising:

a module within the identification authority server that, pursuant to a long-term policy received from said security policy server and a request from said user computer, prepares and sends to said user computer, via a public network to which said user computer, identification authority server, revocation authority server, and said verification authority server are connected, an identification certificate that includes a freshness constraint represented by a time duration referenced to time of said request by said user computer;

a module within said revocation authority server configured to store for storing in a memory a validity statement in response to a received short-term policy, and to update for updating said validity statement at specified intervals, said validity statement including a verification status at some temporal reference;

means configured to provide for providing, in response to a request initiated by said user computer, said identification certificate and said validity statement retrieved from said memory, to said verification authority server, via said public network; and

a module within said verification authority server configured to verify for verifying that said request is within said time duration and said validity statement permits serving said request by said user computer.